

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, COMMEMORATING THE  
1921 TULSA RACE MASSACRE.

- § 1. WHEREAS, in the early 20th century, de jure segregation confined Tulsa’s Black residents into the “Greenwood District”, which they built into a thriving community with a nationally renowned entrepreneurial center known as “Black Wall Street”; and
- § 2. WHEREAS, the City of Norman operated similarly to Tulsa as a segregated community, enforced through sundown town practices from 1889 to 1967; and
- § 3. WHEREAS, throughout the United States up through the 1964 Civil Rights Act and 1965 Voting Rights Act, White supremacy and racist violence went largely unchecked by the justice system; and
- § 4. WHEREAS, amidst a climate of white racial hostility and resentment resulting from Black economic success, reports of an alleged and disputed incident on the morning of May 30, 1921, between a Black man and a White woman caused Tulsa’s White community, including the Tulsa Tribune, to call for the accused Black man’s lynching; and
- § 5. WHEREAS, on May 31, 1921, a mob of armed White men descended upon Tulsa’s Greenwood District and launched what is now known as the “Tulsa Race Massacre”; and
- § 6. WHEREAS, over a period of 24 hours, the White mob’s violence led to the death of an estimated 300 Black residents, as well as over 800 reports of injuries; and
- § 7. WHEREAS, the White mob looted, damaged, burned, or otherwise destroyed approximately 40 square blocks of the Greenwood district, including an estimated 1,256 homes of Black residents, as well as virtually every other structure, including churches, schools, businesses, a hospital, and a library, leaving nearly 9,000 Black Tulsans homeless and effectively wiping out tens of millions of dollars in Black prosperity and wealth in Tulsa; and
- § 8. WHEREAS, in the wake of the Tulsa Race Massacre, the Governor of Oklahoma declared martial law, and units of the Oklahoma National Guard participated in the mass arrests of all or nearly all of Greenwood’s surviving residents, specifically removing them from Greenwood to other parts of Tulsa and, unlawfully, detaining them in holding centers; and

- § 9. WHEREAS, Oklahoma local and State governments dismissed claims arising from the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre for decades, and the event was effectively erased from collective memory and history until, in 1997, the Oklahoma State Legislature finally created a commission to study the event; and
- § 10. WHEREAS, on February 28, 2001, the commission issued a report that detailed, for the first time, the extent of the Massacre and decades-long efforts to suppress its recollection; and
- § 11. WHEREAS, despite the Tulsa Race Massacre Commission confirming their roles in the Massacre, no law enforcement official nor any of the hundreds of White mob members who participated in the violence were ever prosecuted or held accountable for the hundreds of lives lost and tens of millions of dollars of Black wealth destroyed, nor was any compensation ever provided to the Massacre's victims or their descendants; and
- § 12. WHEREAS, in 2021, the history of violence against Black people in the United States reflects the ongoing fight and significant disparities in the areas of wealth, educational attainment, entrepreneurship, homeownership, health care, and life expectancy; and
- § 13. WHEREAS, the year 2021 marks the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa Race Massacre.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, THEY DO HEREBY:

- § 14. Recognize the forthcoming centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre;
- § 15. Acknowledge the historical significance of this event as one of the largest single instances of State-sanctioned violence against Black people in American history;
- § 16. Honor the lives and legacies of the estimated 300 Black individuals who were killed during the Massacre and the nearly 9,000 Black individuals who were left homeless and penniless;
- § 17. Condemn the participants of the Tulsa Race Massacre, including White municipal officials and law enforcement who directly participated in or who aided and abetted the unlawful violence;
- § 18. Condemn efforts to cover up the truth and shield the White community, and especially State and local officials, from accountability for the Tulsa Race Massacre;
- § 19. Condemn the continued legacy of racism, including systemic racism, and White supremacy against Black people in the United States, particularly in the form of police brutality;

- § 20. Encourage education about the Tulsa Race Massacre, including the horrors of the massacre itself, the history of White supremacy that fueled the massacre, and subsequent attempts to deny or cover up the Massacre; and
- § 21. Commits to supporting policies and efforts to achieve equity and inclusion among our city's residents regardless of race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, political affiliation or zip code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City of Norman City Council encourages the local community, local agencies and all respective community members at large to recognize, increase awareness, further educate, and condemn any form of discrimination.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.

\_\_\_\_\_

Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_

Deputy City Clerk